

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 62

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 91

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 62—Relative to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 1, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 62, Galgiani. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

This measure would commend the State Department of Health Care Services for implementing and maintaining a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) pilot program and would encourage the department to prepare and submit a report and interim updates to the Legislature regarding the effectiveness of the pilot program and to partner with private entities to improve education regarding COPD.

This measure would also designate November 2009 as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month, and November 18, 2009, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Day in California. This measure would also encourage public officials and the citizens of California to increase awareness of the symptoms of, and the methods of preventing, COPD.

WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), also known as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and is the only one of the top five causes of death whose prevalence and death rate is rising; and

WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that impacts an estimated 24 million Americans each year, approximately five million of whom are residents of California, and an estimated 1.6 million of whom suffer directly from the disease; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, the national annual cost for COPD was estimated to be \$37 billion and in that same year, COPD caused approximately 121,000 deaths nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Many patients suffering with COPD are not diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of COPD, which often includes a disabling degree of lung dysfunction; and

WHEREAS, A diagnostic test for COPD, known as spirometry, is available for office use, allowing early diagnosis of COPD; and

WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and management of COPD can effectively reduce the overall financial burden of this illness on publicly funded health care programs, including Medi-Cal; and

WHEREAS, Achieving early diagnosis and proper management of COPD among California's diverse populations, within the Medi-Cal program as

well as other publicly funded health care programs, requires overcoming cultural, language, and literacy challenges; and

WHEREAS, Proper management of COPD can lead to an improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for patients who receive publicly funded benefits; and

WHEREAS, The “Healthy People 2010” project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health concludes that, while primary care physicians are in a key position to provide optimal care to patients with COPD and to provide counseling during clinical or health center visits, primary care physicians need to be trained in the latest methods for diagnosing and treating the disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature commends the State Department of Health Care Services for implementing and maintaining a pilot program for chronic disease management of COPD in an effort to identify and recommend means to reduce the financial and clinical burden of COPD upon the Medi-Cal program and the citizens of California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages the State Department of Health Care Services to provide interim updates on the COPD pilot program, as appropriate, and to prepare and submit a report of its respective findings and recommendations regarding the COPD pilot program to the appropriate committees of the Assembly and Senate, so that the Legislature may evaluate the effectiveness of the program in reducing Medi-Cal costs and in providing improved health and well-being for the affected patients; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages the State Department of Health Care Services to partner with private entities to improve education regarding COPD; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature designates November 2009 as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month, and November 18, 2009, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Day in California. The Legislature encourages public officials and the citizens of California to increase awareness about the symptoms of, and the methods of preventing, COPD; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.